

HONDURAS

External Update 4

November 2021

Key Figures

PROTECTION

UNHCR and partner World Vision and community leaders delivered **core relief items** targeting **5,400 vulnerable families** from Villanueva, Lima and Rivera Hernández

78 per cent of funding needs received by 29 November 2021. UNHCR is **appealing for USD 26.7 million** to support vulnerable people in need of protection in Honduras.

Highlights

- Xiomara Castro, opposition Libre party's candidate, will become Honduras' first female president and the first from the left in 12 years. Honduras ruling party candidate conceded defeat in the presidential election held on 28 November.
- Honduran social worker and director of Jóvenes Contra la Violencia, Santiago Ávila, received on 2 November the [UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for the Americas](#) for his dedication in challenging gang violence that blights the lives of many young Hondurans. UNHCR Representative, Andrés Celis, expressed gratitude to the international community, the ambassadors of Norway and Switzerland and to the UN Resident Coordinator for supporting and recognizing those that contribute to the well-being and safety of children and youth living in high-risk communities in Honduras.
- Honduras was the fourth source country in the world of new asylum applications from January to June 2021 with 33,900 applications (30,100 in the same period in 2020), according to [UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends 2021](#).
- President Hernández stated at the United Nations COP26 climate talks that 67 of the 82 natural disasters Honduras suffered in the last half century were induced by climate change, resulting in billions of dollars in economic loss and people suffering from displacement.

Protection

- UNHCR in San Pedro Sula together with partner Visión Mundial and community leaders delivered core relief items (CRI) and non-food items (NFIs) targeting 5,400 vulnerable families from Villanueva, Lima and Rivera Hernández. Through NFIs delivery, UNHCR supports families affected by multiple emergencies in 2020 and strengthens its humanitarian access to high-risk communities affected by forced displacement. Similarly, the NFIs deliveries served as a capacity-building process to strengthen community leaders' organizational capacities to identify vulnerability criteria, persons with specific needs, and households targeting processes. Around 17,200 families will benefit from NFIs deliveries in the next few weeks in other prioritized communities in San Pedro Sula and Tela.
- UNHCR participated in the third session of the four-module Tactical Urbanism ToT Programme, along with 32 key members from UNHCR's partners. UNHCR and the San Pedro Sula Municipality jointly implement pilot Tactical Urbanism interventions in three high-risk urban communities profiled as both IDP reception and expeller districts. Public spaces are revitalized and opened for public use of the community. Through an investment that is low-cost, short-term and replicable, UNHCR's Tactical Urbanism programme brings together local governments; NGOs; grassroots organizations; and community leaders to offer an innovative solution to address root causes of forced displacement by fostering social inclusion, enhancing communities' participation mechanisms and organizational processes.
- From 5 to 10 November, UNHCR along Human Rights Secretariat held working meetings to start the design of the Unified IDP Registration System, as well as the Strategic Plan of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons by Violence (2022-2024).

- UNHCR and Doctors of the World (Mdm) carried out health fairs in the medical dispensaries of the Villanueva, San Pedro Sula and Lima municipalities that allow promoting access to health, protection services and the reactivation of medical clinics that have been closed due to the impact of the pandemic and the Eta/ Iota hurricanes. During the health fair, educational talks are given to promote biosecurity measures and prevention of COVID-19, as well as prevention of gender-based violence and promote mental health.
- As the world marks the 30th anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UNHCR Honduras will undertake 14 activities to advocate and protect the rights of internally displaced women and girls and prevent femicides and hate crimes. To date, 306 murders against women have been reported and land and right women-defenders continue to be at heightened risk. The roll-out of activities will include the mobilization and advocacy activities of displaced women-led organizations and groups such as the Mesa de Mujeres Migrantes y Desplazadas, supported by UNHCR.
- On 22 November, UNHCR, partner World Vision and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) held the closing session of the learning programme “Certificate on internal displacement due to violence, human rights, gender and diversity”, where 19 community leaders graduated from the first cohort of the programme.
- UNHCR Field Unit Tegucigalpa through partner Save the Children provided 190 families with the same number of water storage tanks in high-risk communities of El Pedregal (40); Izaguirre (40); La Esperanza (30); Nueva Capital (40); and La Era (40), all of them in Tegucigalpa.
- UNHCR continues leading the Protection Cluster and is ready to support the Government in the Corinto Response.
- Within the framework of the agreement with the Human Rights Secretariat, a first disbursement of seed capital was delivered to 10 productive initiatives implemented by IDPs, after which UNHCR carried out a first visit to verify the investments and provide technical support. The 10 initiatives involve 44 people in nine municipalities and six departments in Honduras.
- On 9 November, UNHCR with partner NRC developed a joint work plan to establish a referral system of cases of refugees and asylum-seekers to the free legal clinic of the National Autonomous University of Honduras. This is a significant step to ensure free legal assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR conducted a workshop with partner Cáritas to design the methodological framework for the establishment of the Community Observatory on Internal Displacement, which is expected to initiate its first stage in the first quarter of 2022. The Observatory will contribute to capitalize on the work with Cáritas’ parish teams to identify protection concerns and publish relevant data for the national response.
- UNHCR’s first [Global Compact on Refugees indicator report](#) highlighted 14 municipalities trained in displacement-related matter as part of Honduras’ pledge to build the capacity of municipalities to deal with returnees, refugees, and migrants.

Government and Inter-agency Coordination

- Honduras assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency for 2022 in the IV Annual Meeting of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) held on 30 November. Honduras pledged to give continuity to the efforts of the previous Pro Tempore Presidencies, and to implement new actions to address the human mobility challenges the region is facing. UNHCR will continue supporting Honduras in the implementation of the framework.

Read UNHCR’s webstory “[In Honduras, climate change is one more factor sparking displacement](#)”

Funding

UNHCR is appealing for USD 26.7 million to provide comprehensive solutions to forcibly displaced persons in Honduras in 2021. The best way to support UNHCR’s appeal is through unearmarked contributions. Such flexible funding at global level will be key in allowing a timely response to the evolving needs wherever required.

UNHCR is thankful to the donors who provide funds to Honduras:

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